

tions of these duties, and be best able to explain their injurious operation, not only on their own pecuniary interests, and through these directly on the pecuniary interests of the public, who pay for all; but also on the public health, and on the free promotion and establishment of those sanitary improvements which it is now the heart's desire of the public to carry out to their legitimate issue.

If once such a parent association were fairly established in the metropolis, branch associations over all the empire, co-operating and communicating with the metropolitan head, would soon follow, and with a little well-directed energy, our new and old legislators would at once be induced to abolish these obnoxious taxes on light and safety, comfort, cleanliness and health. The great object, at present, as our correspondent observes, is to give an additional spur to that already strong public opinion which is directed against these inimical taxes, and to keep public attention, "alive to the evils consequent on what you have very justly termed the 'Light and Health (and you might add the Architectural Symmetry) Tax.'"

We are pleased to observe that this little *war-cri* which we had the fortune to suggest, and which our contemporaries were not slow in doing us the recognized honour of passing along, from one to the other, like some rallying motto,—is now in active service. From *The Times* we perceive, that at a recent meeting of the metropolitan delegates on the window tax, attended by Lords Duncan and Dudley Stuart, Sir Benjamin Hall, Mr. George Daniel, and others, in Marylebone vestry, "resolutions were agreed to which declared, in substance, that the meeting was impressed with the injurious, unequal, and oppressive effects of a *tax upon light, air, and health*; that, regarding the window-tax merely in the light of a fiscal imposition, it was in the highest degree unjust in tax the English tradesman for the first necessary of life, whilst the property of Irish landlords was exempted from any share in a taxation to which English proprietors had been for many years subject; and the meeting earnestly urged all constituent bodies to make the repeal of the window tax a primary object in the ensuing election, and, wherever it may be possible, to return no candidates who will not pledge themselves cordially to co-operate in the attainment of this great end."

On the latter point we are glad to be able, now that the result of a number of these elections has transpired, to state, in the words of a contemporary, the *Manchester Advertiser*, that not the least of those great social questions which have much more engaged the attention of constituencies and candidates than any thing of a decidedly great political character, "is the subject of the sanitary condition of our large towns, and, connected with it in a very important manner, the kindred point of window duties. To a greater extent than might have been anticipated, this has been one of the matters which have been brought prominently before the notice of candidates, and we cannot anticipate from these circumstances any other than the most favourable results. In the city of London, the question of the window duties was made one of the most conspicuous points; and it is a matter sincerely to be hoped that the premier, who has just been returned by the citizens of that great constituency at the head of the poll, will seriously and practically direct his labours to this, with the other important matters connected with the health of towns' measures we are promised for next session. As we doubt not the sincerity which the cabinet professes on this question, so also are we the more sanguine that an effort vigorously made to repeal the window tax must be successful. How can it (as has been well observed), with the semblance of consistency, be otherwise? We cannot imagine men descending on the necessity of cleanliness, of an abundant supply of water, of freeing as much as possible the atmosphere from impurities, and at the same time denying these very persons the light of Heaven in positive profusion. Why, the enactments of the Health of Towns' Bill itself would be shorn of more than half their benefit were this not the case. "We trust the people of England will not be slow in asserting that all sanitary regulations must be inefficient and incomplete without the abolition of the window tax," and the tax on brick, say we.

TOMB-STONES.



GRAVE-STONES.

Sir,—To the improved form of grave-stones in your number of June 19th, permit me to add two from Luxemburg, the plainer form of which I conceive would be more applicable in districts where the indigenous stone is difficultly worked, than the ornamental sculpture on those proposed by your correspondent "J. S.," and with whose reprobation of the base purposes for which churchyards are still sometimes employed, I cannot but agree.

I beg, however, to protest against the locking-up of churchyard gates, except during the night. Good is it, both for mind and soul, to enter the "house of mourning;" sweet also is it privately to visit, now and then, the graves of our relatives and our friends, and painful is it to be deprived of such a melancholy pleasure. Let churchyards be therefore open, as they used to be, for meditation; but let it be patrolled, if necessary, by the parish beadle, or some well-conducted inmate of the workhouse, with authority to prevent children playing therein, or other improper conduct. I see, however, no great harm in allowing a few sheep occasionally to keep down the grass, so that convenient access may be had to all the graves, although I do not like that prim appearance of our modern public cemeteries, which now causes them to be frequented more as pleasure-gardens than such sacred places ought to be.

W. BLOUNT.

THE GOVERNMENT SCHOOL OF DESIGN.

THE committee appointed by the council of the School of Design to consider the report of the special committee, to which we referred some time since, have made their own report to the Board of Trade, recommending nearly all that was suggested by the masters; especially the delivery of lectures and instruction in the principles of design. The following are amongst the recommendations:—

"That each professor shall be solely responsible to the committee of instruction for the management and progress of his respective class; shall suspend students if necessary, reporting the same, as soon as conveniently may be, to the committee of instruction. He shall also report, at least every two months, on the state of his class to the committee of instruction; and shall attend the meetings of the said committee when required, to give any information relative to his particular class, or to offer any suggestions respecting it.

That each professor shall, at least once a

week, deliver to the students in his class, collectively, a lecture, or discourse, explanatory of the subjects of study in progress in his class.

That courses of special lectures shall be delivered to the whole school on anatomy, botany, perspective, and the history, principles, and practice of ornamental art. The lecturers to be specially remunerated, and the lectures, with the periods of their delivery, to be determined upon by the committee of instruction. The students of the female school to attend such lectures as the committee of instruction may deem expedient, and to occupy distinct seats to be provided for them.

That each professor and master be requested to contribute at least one specimen of ornamental art to each exhibition.

That a gold medal be offered as an annual prize for some high specimen of ornamental art; to be open for competition to all students in the Government Schools of Design throughout the country.

That a course of lectures on the history, principles, and practice of ornamental art shall be delivered at least once a year in each of the branch schools, by a competent person, to be appointed by the council, subject to the approval of the Board of Trade, and to be specially remunerated.

That the Board of Trade be requested to take into immediate consideration the imperative necessity of affording more efficient accommodation to the Head School of Design, in Somerset House, by providing spacious and well ventilated apartments for the purposes of instruction, a lecture and exhibition room, sufficient space for the museum and library of reference, and especially a room to be expressly used for the purposes of the modellers.

It remains to be seen what part of the report the Board of Trade will adopt, and then, whether it will work well.

There is to be no exhibition of drawings this year, at which the pupils compete.

PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICE.—We hear that Sir Gregory Gey, having referred the question of the proposed site for the Public Record Office in Chancery-lane to the Metropolitan Commissioners, they have reported in favour of its adoption. The estimated cost of the building is 175,000*l.*, the fittings 31,500*l.*; the houses and ground which it would be necessary to purchase, 243,000*l.*; making the total cost 450,000*l.* It is to be observed, however, that this includes the erection of several short streets in the immediate neighbourhood.